

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 03155 091043Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 /084 W

----- 076437

P R 090808Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3711

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3155

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PHOUMI VONGVICHIT

1. AT SOVIET RECEPTION LAST NIGHT HAD OCCASION TO TALK WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PHOUMI VONGVICHIT. WHILE HE MAINTAINED HIS USUAL EQUANIMITY, HIS COMMENTS HAD A RATHER HARDER EDGE.

2. THE MILITARY EVENTS ON ROUTE 13 HAD BEEN CAUSED BY VANG PAO'S TROOPS AT THE INTERSECTION HE SAID. THEY HAD TAUNTED LPF FORCES, FIRING AT THEM FREQUENTLY. VANG PAO HAD SENT IN T-28S. I INDICATED THAT I HAD HEARD A DIFFERENT VERSION OF THE EVENTS INCLUDING THE FACT THAT LPF FORCES HAD BEEN USING 130 MM GUNS. HE DISMISSED THIS POINT, SAYING THAT MEOS ALSO HAD ARTILLERY. ACCORDING TO HIM, EVERYTHING HAD BEEN GOING WELL BETWEEN TWO SIDES AT INTERSECTION UNTIL THE LAO TROOPS WERE REPLACED BY MEOS. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAD SENT TELEGRAM TO SAM NEUA TO HAVE FIGHTING STOPPED ON ROUTE 13, BUT ALL THESE WERE REGIONAL

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 03155 091043Z

FORCES. (IMPLICATION OF REMARK WAS THAT LPF FORCES ON

ROUTE 13 WERE UNDER A REGIONAL COMMAND WHICH COULD ONLY BE DIRECTED BY SAM NEUA ITSELF.)

3. I REAFFIRMED U.S. POSITION AND EFFORTS AS I HAD TO SOUVANNA. HE ACCEPTED MY COMMENTS BUT NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN OVERFLIGHTS OF LPF ZONE BY "F-105S AND F4H AIRCRAFT AT VERY LOW ALTITUDES." IN FACT, HE SAID, 13 COMBAT AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN DOWNED SINCE FEBRUARY, 1973, WHEN THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED. I EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AT HIS STATEMENT INDICATING THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE NO U.S. COMBAT AIRCRAFT HAD FLOWN OVER LAOS SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE AND I HAD NEVER HEARD THE FIGURE OF 13 AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN. HE ANSWERED THAT THESE REPORTS HAD BEEN GIVEN OVER RADIO PATHET LAO AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN PAST. HE THEN COMMENTED THAT IF U.S. REALLY WANTED TO HELP LAOS, IT SHOULD PROVIDE ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNMENT. I POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THERE WAS ONE GOVERNMENT WHICH WE SUPPORTED, THERE WERE TWO SEPARATE ZONES AND LPF FORCES WERE BEING MAINTAINED SEPARATELY FROM THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

4. FINALLY, HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT FAMILIES (HE DID NOT IDENTIFY THEIR NATIONALITIES) WERE LEAVING FOR THAILAND BUT SAYING THEY WOULD RETURN TO DESTROY VIENTIANE. I SAID I HAD HEARD MANY RUMORS IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND.
CHAPMAN

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